

pire in this time of stress is an extremely satisfactory one for the people of Canada to consider.

The honourable member from Manitou (Hon. Mr. Sharpe) has to some extent dealt with the question of our military organization. I quite agree with him in regard to sending battalions from this country to England. I think that the Government would have been better advised at the beginning, if, instead of raising the large number of battalions that were raised, they had formed battalions in certain districts, and, after sending the first battalions overseas, they had sent over the rest of the men in the form of drafts to fill up the vacancies in those battalions. There would then have been a closer connection between the men from different parts of this country and those at the front. There would have been developed an esprit de corps which would have had a beneficial effect on both the men themselves and the people in the different districts from which the battalions went forward.

With regard to the officers in England at the present time who now find themselves without any position, I had hoped that a large number of them would have seen their way either to accept a reduction in rank and go to the front or else come back here to help in the work of the war.

Reference has been made to the departure of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. I wish to join with the mover and seconder of the Address in expressing the regret of the people of Canada that the term of service of His Royal Highness in this country has come to an end. We had thought that it was the intention that His Royal Highness should remain in Canada until the end of the war. When he first came out here it was understood that it was at great inconvenience to himself, and that he desired that his term of office should extend only for a couple of years. But when the war started he consented to remain on, and I am sure that everybody throughout the length and breadth of this land appreciated his devotion to duty and his desire to render all the service he could to Canada and the Empire in the position which he so nobly filled. We all join in regretting that he should have left us, and we realize that in the future he will do all that he can for Canada and for Canadians who are in Great Britain.

In welcoming to this country His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire we are wel-

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

coming a man who has had considerable experience in public life, and whose training has been largely in the public affairs of his country. His experience will be of great benefit to Canada in the problems arising out of this war—problems referred to by the hon. gentleman from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan) in regard to the return of the soldiers and in dealing with those who have so nobly served their country, and who, in doing so have received wounds which will make it necessary to take care of them and provide for them during the rest of their lives. There is also the problem of absorbing into civil life men who have returned and who are no longer fit for duty. It is a very difficult question, and one to which I know the right honourable the leader of the Government is giving great attention. In this connection we realize that the experience of His Excellency the Governor General should be of very great value to this country. We welcome also Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire and her family, and hope to see them interested in the affairs of this country.

On behalf of the members of the Senate, I have the pleasure of congratulating my honourable friend the leader of the Government on the honour which, since we last met, he has received at the hands of His Majesty—the honour of knighthood. We appreciate any distinction that comes to my honourable friend in this manner as we in this Chamber appreciate his good qualities. We would have been pleased, however, had some further distinction come to him in the way of his receiving an to him in the way of an appointment to a portfolio in the Government. This Parliament has now met for the seventh session. In the ordinary course, the Parliament would not be in existence now; but owing to the conditions arising out of the war we meet again for another session. During the recess an opportunity occurred for the Government, had they so desired, to place my honourable friend in the position of controlling a portfolio. We know that to-day his services are very fully occupied by the chairmanship of the Military Hospitals Commission and the Economic Commission, but at the same time we think that it would have been only due to the dignity of the Senate that his claims to a portfolio should have received the consideration which they so strongly merit.